

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended): An injection molding apparatus comprising:

a plurality of mold cavities formed between at least one pair of mold plates, each cavity having a gate for communicating with an interior of said cavity;

at least one injection molding nozzle body having a back end, a front end, at least one melt channel through said body and a heating member for heating said body, said nozzle body capable of receiving heated pressurized melt from a source and capable of feeding said heated pressurized melt from said back end through said melt channel to said front end; and

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a nozzle end threadably coupled ~~mounted~~ to said front end of said nozzle body, said nozzle end having a bore therethrough extending from said melt channel at said body front end and communicating with at least two tips, each of said at least two tips having a tip melt channel extending from said nozzle end and communicating with at least one of said mold cavities, said at least two tips being threadably coupled to said nozzle end ~~said nozzle end being made substantially of a material having a higher thermal conductivity than said nozzle body.~~

2. (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said nozzle end is made substantially of a material having a higher thermal conductivity than said nozzle body bore is defined in said higher thermally conductive material.

3. (original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein a rear portion of said nozzle end extends inside said nozzle body.

4. (original): The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said rear portion of said nozzle end extends inside a heated portion of said nozzle body.

5. (original): The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said rear portion of said nozzle end is made of a material having a higher thermal conductivity than said nozzle body.

Claims 6 and 7 (canceled).

8. (original): The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising sealing means for inhibiting leakage of pressurized melt between said nozzle end and said mold.

9. (currently amended): In an injection molding apparatus having at least one heated nozzle extending forwardly into a well in a mold, said well having a wall with a plurality of gates spaced therein, each gate extending to a cavity in said mold, said nozzle having a rear end, a front end and a melt channel, said melt channel extending from an inlet at said rear end of said nozzle to an outlet at said front end of said nozzle, the improvement comprising:

a nozzle end having a threaded rear portion that is coupled mounted to said front end of said nozzle and a plurality of tips projecting from said nozzle end opposite said rear portion, said nozzle end having a bore extending therethrough, said bore extending between adapted to extend from said melt channel outlet at said front end of said nozzle and said tips to communicate with said plurality of gates, said tips being removably attached to said nozzle via said threaded rear portion ~~said nozzle end being made substantially of a material having a higher thermal conductivity than said nozzle.~~

10. (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said nozzle end is made substantially of a material having a higher thermal conductivity than said nozzle bore is defined in said higher thermally conductive material.

11. (original): The apparatus of claim 9 wherein a rear portion of said nozzle end extends inside said nozzle.

12. (original): The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said rear portion of said nozzle end extends inside a heated portion of said nozzle.

13. (original): The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said rear portion of said nozzle end has a higher thermally conductivity than said nozzle.

Claims 14-17 (canceled).

¹²
~~18~~. (new): An injection molding apparatus comprising:

at least one heated nozzle extending forwardly into a well in a mold, said well having a wall with a plurality of gates spaced therein, each gate extending to a cavity in said mold, said nozzle having a rear end, a front end and a melt channel, said melt channel extending from an inlet at said rear end of said nozzle to an outlet at said front end of said nozzle;

¹³
a nozzle end having a threaded rear portion that is coupled to said front end of said nozzle and an opposite end, said nozzle end having a bore extending therethrough, said bore extending between said melt channel at said front end of said nozzle and a plurality of tips located adjacent said opposite end of said nozzle end to communicate with said plurality of gates, said tips being removably attached to said nozzle via said threaded rear portion.

¹³
~~19~~. (new): An injection molding apparatus as claimed in claim ¹²~~18~~, wherein said plurality of tips is removable from said nozzle end.

¹⁴
~~20~~. (new): An injection molding apparatus as claimed in claim ¹³~~19~~, wherein each of said plurality of tips is independently removable from said nozzle end.

¹⁵
~~21~~. (new): An injection molding apparatus as claimed in claim ¹⁴~~20~~, wherein each of said plurality of tips includes a melt channel.